

## **For Immediate Release**

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**Tennessee Pork Producers Association (TPPA)**– Annual Convention Details –January 20-21, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel and TN Livestock Center (MTSU) in Murfreesboro, TN are the locations for the annual Tennessee Pork Producers Association convention. On Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 2 p.m. (CST) Seth Krantz, a Univ of TN vet student, who has completed the National Pork Board sponsored Operation Main Street program will present, “The Pork Industry, More Than the Other White Meat” at the Doubletree Hotel. The TPPA Executive Committee meets at 3 p.m. for the annual delegate session and election of officers for 2009.

At 5:30 p.m. invited guests will watch chefs from across the state participate in the Taste of Elegance pork competition. Last year’s winner, Chef Forrest Parker of Gaylord Opryland Old Hickory Steakhouse, won third place at the national contest. He will be on hand as one of the judges for 2009.

Also on Tuesday, youth exhibiting hogs at the state market hog show are invited to a Pizza / Indoor Pool Party at the Doubletree. We do ask that adults accompany the youth to this activity.

On Wednesday, Jan. 21, the State Jr. Market Hog Show begins at 8:30 a.m. at the TN Livestock Center on the campus of MTSU. Over 500 head of hogs are entered in this competition. Additionally, over 500 school children from Rutherford County are scheduled to tour the activities. The youth will learn about pork production as well as corn, wheat, dairy, beef, and other agriculture commodities in our state. The school children will also be competing for honors with their pork promotion posters – overall winners will have their posters displayed on a billboard in Murfreesboro during the Easter season.

The convention could not take place without the agriculture partners – such as the TN Farm Bureau, TN Livestock Producers, TN Farmers Coop, TN Dept. of Agriculture, Farm Credit Services, Farm Service Agency, and other commodity groups assisting with the ag tour activities.

We look forward to a busy, educational and fun two days to highlight pork production in our state.

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